



Department of Code Enforcement

Indianapolis

Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

Frequently Asked Questions

High Weeds and Grass (HWG)

What is High Weeds and Grass

According to Chapter 575 of the Revised Code, vegetation over 12 inches in height is considered High Weeds and Grass.

Why are High Weeds and Grass problematic?

High Weeds and Grass are an environmental public nuisance and has a negative effect on public health and safety. Besides being unsightly, High Weeds and Grass can harbor pests and vermin, and can also conceal illegal activities.

What types of HWG issues does DCE oversee?

DCE oversees High Weeds and Grass violations on neglected private property. The Department of Public Works maintains responsibility for the right-of-way.

How do I report HWG?

You can report a possible HWG violation by calling the Mayor's Action Center at (317) 327-4MAC (4622), visiting www.indy.gov/requestindy, or through the RequestIndy app available for smartphones. Be prepared to provide the street address and any necessary details about the property.

What is the timeframe for addressing HWG properties?

The average call to cut time is 15 days. This includes the required notification time set forth in the ordinance.



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High Weeds and Grass (HWG) Abatement Process

- Step 1:** Citizen reports High Weeds and Grass to the Mayor's Action Center.
- Step 2:** An inspector receives the complaint and inspects the property.
- Step 3:** If the inspector determines High Weeds and Grass exists, a Notice of Violation is mailed and the property owner has five days to mow the property.
- Step 4:** From the date the Notice of Violation is mailed, the property owner has 5 days to mow the property.
- Step 5:** After five days, a DCE mowing vendor will conduct a site inspection. If the property owner has mowed the property, the vendor documents the property is in compliance, and notifies DCE.
- If the property owner has not mowed the property, the vendor documents the violation and immediately mows the property. The vendor then provides DCE with before and after photographs.
- Step 6:** On a daily basis, the vendor reports to DCE the properties which been mowed, and the properties which have come into voluntary compliance.
- Step 7:** If a mowing vendor mows the property, the property owner will receive a \$353 invoice for services from the City of Indianapolis. This includes vendor costs and all administrative fees.
- Step 8:** If the property owner does not pay the invoice, it will be attached to the owner's property tax bill.



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Invoices for High Weeds and Grass (HWG)

Why did I receive an invoice for \$353?

From the date the Notice of Violation is mailed, the property owner has 5 days to abate (mow) the property. If a property owner fails to abate the violation within that time period/fails to keep the property in compliance, an invoice for \$353 will be sent each time a City mowing vendor is used.

Why is the invoice amount \$353?

This fee covers the costs related to inspections, abatement, and administration of the HWG program. The administrative fee has been set at \$288, and a fee of \$65 covers the vendor costs.

When do I have to pay the invoice?

A property owner has 10 days to make their payment to the Department of Code Enforcement (DCE). If a property owner fails to pay the invoice, the City will file a lien against the property for collection with the next property tax bill.

Payment of an invoice (check or money order) can be mailed to DCE at the following address. Please be certain to reference the HWG case number.

Department of Code Enforcement

1200 Madison Ave., Suite 100

Indianapolis, IN 46225

HWG Automated Help Line: (317) 327-5577

weedsquestions@indy.gov



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Disputes and Administrative Hearings

What can I do if I received a notice of violation or a mowing invoice for a property that is not legally under my name due to a recent property sale, foreclosure, or bankruptcy?

By law, the Department of Code Enforcement (DCE) is required to issue a notice of violation to the owner at the address on file with the Assessor's Office in the township where the real estate is located. If you are no longer the owner of the property cited, you will need to provide written documentation to support this.

If you are no longer the owner of this property, you must contact the Marion County Assessor's Office, located on the 13th floor of the City-County Building, at (317)327-7869. You will be required to update your information with the assessor's office.

What can I do if I received a notice of violation and the weeds and grass on my property was not over 12 inches in height?

Properties are automatically scheduled for re-inspection 6 days after a notice of violation is mailed. If there is no violation during the re-inspection, the case will be closed.

What can I do I want to dispute a violation or abatement cost?

If you would like to dispute the existence of vegetation over 12 inches in height on your property, you may submit a [HWG Inquiry Request Form](#) to:

Department of Code Enforcement
1200 Madison Ave, Ste. 100
Indianapolis, IN 46225
HWG Automated Help Line: (317) 327-5577
weedsquestions@indy.gov

Once a HWG Inquiry Request form is received, a staff member will conduct an internal review of your case. The internal review process typically takes between 5 and 7 business days. A staff member will contact you with photos of the abatement that took place and provide additional information on how to further dispute the existence of the violation.